

characteristics are stored within the file, and that the file must be opened to “display of an indication of internal file characteristics”. Additionally, the phrase “and in a manner free of decoding the indication of internal file characteristics from a filename of the desired file” has been added to clarify that the internal file characteristics are obtained from within the file, not from the filename of the file.

Support for these amendments can be found in the specification, as originally filed, at least at page 9, lines 29-31 and page 9, line 33 to page 10, line 3.

The examiner has rejected Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Windows NT Explorer 4.0 in view of Buitron (U.S. Patent No. 5,799,307).

The examiner states that Windows NT discloses “an extension...display assembly...for displaying the indication of file characteristics...in a manner free of opening a (sic) application program in working memory...”. Examiner fails to note amendments made to Claim 1 in applicants’ Amendment dated July 14, 1999. That amendment limited the claimed file characteristics to **internal** file characteristics. The present invention’s use of internal file characteristics is one of the distinguishing features over the cited prior art.

Regarding independent Claims 1 and 7, the examiner notes that Windows NT Explorer fails to explicitly disclose the “*file/image previewing apparatus*”, stating that “it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to integrate both the *extension* (Claim 1) or *file manager* (Claim 7) and the display assembly into one *file/image previewing apparatus*”.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness three criteria must be met: 1) all claim limitations must be taught or suggested in the cited prior art, 2) teaching, motivation or suggestion to combine cited prior art must be cited in references or present in one of ordinary skill in the art, and 3) there must be a reasonable expectation of success. “As used herein, “previewing” with respect to the file includes an overview of or summary of file characteristics and contents including images” (Specification page 2, lines 19-22). Combining the extension or file manager with the display assembly to create one file/image previewing apparatus, even if obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, does not teach or suggest all the limitations of the recited in the claims of the present invention. The file/image previewing

apparatus created by the examiner's combination still lacks the ability to display internal file characteristics (e.g., height, width, length, color type, resolution, etc.).

The examiner states that "Windows NT Explorer fails to explicitly teach *displaying internal file characteristics*" and that "Buitron discloses "...the ability...to access information about the digitized data...without actually opening up the digitized data record..." (Col.7, 8-11)." The examiner additionally states "that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teaching of Windows NT Explorer and Buitron, because Buitron discloses "...the present invention [Buitron] uses the built-in function of the native file structure of the operating system to record certain attributes about the file outside of the file..." (Col.7, 15-18).

Although internal characteristics of a file can be encoded using the native file structure (e.g., the file name and file directory structure), this is not the approach taken by the present invention. Buitron is encoding information in the operating system file/directory **name**, such that no file has to be opened. The present invention is storing file characteristics within the file, but not requiring the **application program** to open the file (i.e., it is opened using the image engine 25). Storage of file characteristics within the file is in contrast to both Windows NT Explorer, which stores file characteristics within the file system, and Buitron, which stores/encodes information within the file/directory names. Additionally, having this information (including image information) stored in the file allows for previewing of file images along with internal file characteristics. Neither Windows NT Explorer nor Buitron can provide this combination. Windows NT Explorer is limited to its current file system data structure (e.g., name, size, type, modified data). Buitron is limited by the file system name size. In Windows NT "a long file name can contain up to 255 characters and can even include spaces" (Gavron et al, How to Use Microsoft Windows NT 4 Workstation, p.33). That filename size limitation would generally be impractical for encoding the indicia of internal file characteristics of image files. In addition to the size limitations, using the file system name/directory structure for storing internal file characteristics presents the problem of non-transportability, as file system name/directory structures vary from system to system.

Regarding Claim 12, the examiner states that "Claim 12 is directed towards a method for implementing the computer system found in Claim 1 and is similarly rejected". Based upon the

arguments above regarding independent Claims 1 and 7, Claim 12 is similarly distinguishable over the combination of Windows NT Explorer and Buitron. Some of the patently distinguishing features, as argued above, are recited in Claim 12 with the language “enabling display of indications of internal file characteristics”, “by opening the file”, “in a manner free of decoding the indication of internal file characteristics from a filename of the desired file” and “in a manner free of opening and running an application program”.

Claims 2-6 are dependant on Claim 1, in light of the amendments and arguments above, Claim 1 is believed to be patently distinguishable from the prior art. Therefore, any claims dependant on Claim 1 are also patently distinguishable.

Claims 8-11 are dependant on Claim 7, in light of the amendments and arguments above, Claim 1 is believed to be patently distinguishable from the prior art. Therefore, any claims dependant on Claim 7 are also patently distinguishable.

Claims 13-17 are dependant on Claim 12, in light of the amendments and arguments above, Claim 1 is believed to be patently distinguishable from the prior art. Therefore, any claims dependant on Claim 8 are also patently distinguishable.

Applicants acknowledge the prior art that the examiner has made of record and make the following remarks.

Unites States Patent No. 5,752,244, “Computerized Multimedia Asset Management System”, by Rose, et al. was cited, but not relied upon for the above rejections. Rose discusses a computerized method of managing multimedia assets including (a) checking in multimedia assets to a database, (b) searching the database for multimedia assets, and (c) checking out the multimedia assets. The present invention provides an extension to the operating system of a computer to preview a file, without requiring the application program to open the file or any use of a database, searching or check-in/check-out mechanism. Rose states:

“Previewing an asset by either double-selecting an icon 162 or use of the “preview” button causes the contents of the asset to be previewed by calling a viewer program associated with the type of asset selected, e.g., Paint Brush for viewing images and Media Player for viewing (visually and/or audibly perceiving) audio and video, both offered by

Microsoft Corporation. For example, if the selected asset is an image, the appropriate viewer displays the image on one of the output devices 28, e.g., a display screen. On the other hand, if the elected asset is audio, the appropriate viewer plays the audio content on one of the output devices 28, e.g., speakers. (Col. 21, line 62 to Col. 22, line 6)."

In contrast to the present invention, Rose requires an application (viewer) program be called and launched in order to preview an asset.

United States Patent No. 5,831,631, "Method And Apparatus For Improved Information Visualization", by Light et al., was cited, but not relied upon for the above rejections. Light discloses a system for displaying standalone icons representing qualitative measurements of multiple attributes of an information file. The present invention provides an extension to the operating system of a computer to preview a file, without requiring the application program to open the file. Light does not show any mechanism for opening files without the application program present.

United States Patent No. 5,999,790, "Information Filing Apparatus", by Murayama et al., was cited, but not relied upon for the above rejections. Murayama discusses a system for storing images and associated keywords and using the associated keywords to retrieve stored images. The present invention provides an extension to the operating system of a computer to preview a file, without requiring the application program to open the file. Murayama does not show any mechanism for opening files without the application program present or viewing internal file characteristics.

United States Patent No. 5,345,550, "User-Modifiable Popup Menus for Object Oriented Behavior", by Bloomfield, was cited, but not relied upon for the above rejections. Bloomfield discusses a method of generating a popup menu of actions for an object, including interrogating extended attributes of the object. The present invention provides an extension to the operating system of a computer to preview a file, without requiring the application program to open the file. Bloomfield is not previewing files, but providing an alternate user interface for actions on them.

United States Patent No. 5,581,703, "Method and Apparatus For Reserving System Resources To Assure Quality Of Service", by Baugher et al., was cited, but not relied upon for the above rejections. Baugher discusses a method of determining a bandwidth calculation based upon information internally stored in a file. The present invention provides an extension to the operating system of a computer to preview a file, without requiring the application program to

open the file. Baugher is not previewing files, but using internally stored information to calculate bandwidth requirements to transmit a file over a communications channel.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all pending claims (Claims 1-17) are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (781) 861-6240.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 12/20/99